

the supply of wild horses in line with the more limited number of homes available to them.

S. 1579 and H.R. 1018 also provide BLM managers with enhanced management tools and greater emphasis on emerging medical controls like long-term contraception to help keep herd sizes proportionate to the available grazing. It also puts greater emphasis on the adoption program by encouraging greater involvement from private, not-for-profit organizations that specialize in equine adoption and therapy programs.

Most Americans value our Nation's great Western heritage. Our idea of the wild, wild West is synonymous with wild horses thundering through great open spaces. Our images of dusty, scruffy prospectors are not complete without the requisite patient burro at his side. A hundred years ago, 2 million wild horses lived on the range—now, there are fewer than 35,000. We want to preserve our wild herds and to keep them forever wild. We can achieve that goal, but we need to provide BLM and the Forest Service with a more robust toolkit for long-term sustainable herd management.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 1579 and move to ensure the long-term future of America's wild horses and burros.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK STRATTON

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful Alabamian and American, LTC Mark Stratton, 39, of Foley, AL, who was killed in Afghanistan on Memorial Day this year and laid to rest among the heroes at Arlington National Cemetery in June. Lieutenant Colonel Stratton was serving as commander of a Provincial Reconstruction Team, PRT, and was killed when an improvised explosive device, IED, detonated as his convoy was passing.

Having had the privilege of attending Lieutenant Colonel Stratton's funeral and hearing the stories told by his family members and those who had worked with him, it is clear that Lieutenant Colonel Stratton was a man of honor who took great pride in his service to our Nation.

In my conversations with his mother, Mrs. Jan York, she described her son as "good, determined, focused and he loved God, he loved America and loved the Air Force. He accomplished so much." She also described how proud he was, as a leader of his PRT, to have completed an important road project. He was proud because he knew it was a project of permanence that would benefit the lives of the people of the area. This is so typical of the patriotic selfless attitude of our magnificent military personnel.

His colleague and friend, Lieutenant Colonel Risner said of him, "He put the airmen that he was supervising or leading first, every step of the way." This

is the sign of a true leader who was dedicated both to the mission and to the development of his subordinates.

In admiration of his committed service and ultimate sacrifice, his colleagues on the Joint Staff in the Pentagon will pay tribute to him later this month by naming a conference room in his honor. I believe that it is a fitting homage to an individual who represented the best of what an airman and officer should be. It is good that our military leaders in the Pentagon will remember the sacrifice this great American made for his country and strive to honor his commitment in the way our military operations are carried out.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Jennifer; their three young children Delaney, Jake, and A.J.; his mother Jan York and her husband Buddy; his brothers, Michael Stratton and Frankie Little; as well as his many friends and fellow warriors as they continue to grieve the loss of this great man. This is an incalculable loss for them, but I know that they will be able to take wonderful lessons from the way he lead his life both publicly and privately. They will also be able to take comfort from the great heritage he leaves to his family and to his Nation.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR MEL MARTINEZ

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to speak about my friend and colleague, Mel Martinez, who is leaving the Senate this week.

Senator Martinez has a story unlike that of any of us who serve in this body. He came to this country from Cuba without his parents at age 15 as part of a humanitarian effort. And as the first Cuban-American Senator, he has always maintained a thoughtful and unique perspective on Cuba policy, one that I have always enjoyed hearing and considering.

As chairman of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, I was pleased to have Senator Martinez as part of that panel. It is not often you get a Secretary of Housing and Urban Development sharing his expertise in a Senate committee.

He worked tirelessly to address the crisis of homelessness, and I have been proud to work alongside him on some of the housing measures we have passed over the past couple of years. He has been enormously helpful and cooperative as a member of my committee, and we will miss his perspective.

Senator Martinez and I didn't agree on every issue, or even most issues. What we shared was a deep love for this amazing country, a deep respect for this institution, and a strong working relationship. Wherever Senator Martinez's remarkable life takes him next, I know that the citizens of his beloved Florida are grateful for his service and will join me in wishing him and his family nothing but the best.

EMPOWERING THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if information is power, then an informed public is certainly an ingredient that helps make government work better and more responsively for the people.

I have always had a keen interest in technology and the Internet, so it has been encouraging to see the commitment and skill that the Obama administration has invested in applying information technology to the functions of government. One of the clearest examples of this has been in the innovative release of data about funds appropriated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—the so-called economic stimulus package. It is all the more encouraging to see the way these efforts have spawned complementary initiatives by private foundations and entrepreneurs.

As a Vermonter I am especially proud that a project called ThisWeKnow.org became a top-three finalist in the Apps for America 2: The Data.gov Challenge, sponsored by The Sunlight Foundation, which asked contestants to produce Web applications to showcase the benefits of sharing Federal Government data with the public. ThisWeKnow.org, along with the other two finalists, showcased their Web sites this week in the Nation's Capital, at the Gov 2.0 Expo Showcase.

ThisWeKnow.org was selected as one of the three finalists out of 47 applications submitted. ThisWeKnow.org was built by GreenRiver.org and Intellidimension of Brattleboro, VT, to empower citizens to enter in their locations and to explore data related to their communities from across Federal agencies. Their site offers citizens one-stop shopping for information available to them about their own towns, States and communities.

The public's right to know is a cornerstone of our democracy. By using technology, a site such as this can provide citizens with access to data that is relevant to them and that can enable and encourage them to make informed decisions. This site is designed to make what was once a difficult and time-consuming process into a faster and more streamlined experience.

ThisWeKnow.org was designed and developed by Michael Knapp, managing director of GreenRiver.org, and Derrish Repchick, vice president of Product Development at Intellidimension, who are in Washington to attend the Gov 2.0 events this week. Although they did not win the grand prize, we congratulate them for all of their hard work and their public spirit, and encourage them to continue their efforts to promote a more accessible and open government.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of a September 8 article from The Brattleboro Reformer be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows: